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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANTS
INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1951, at 4:00 p.m. IN OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Sargeant
Mr. Hulten
Mr. MacKnight
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
Department of the Army - General McClure
Central Intelligence Agency - Mr. Wisner
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Berding

The minutes of the meetings of December 18 and December 26, 1950 were approved.

With regard to item I of the agenda, Mr. Stone reported on the status of the current Russian Plan and the China Plan, which will be circulated for comment on Thursday, January 4. He also called attention to a draft paper prepared by the State Department on the psychological exploitation of General Eisenhower's assumption of command of SHAPE and his tour of NATO capitals.

Admiral Stevens raised a question regarding the procedure for coordination of guidances and noted that a specific change which he had proposed in Weekly Guidance No. 38 had not been included in the final paper. He thought that difficulties could be avoided if we followed the approved procedures for coordinating guidances. Mr. Barrett requested Mr. Sargeant and Mr. Phillips to look into this particular case and report on the facts.

With regard to item II, there was general discussion of the draft project "Brainwave." The consensus was

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State Department review completed

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that despite the practical difficulties of effective implementation, the idea should be further developed and tried out on a modest basis, possibly in one country. It was agreed that Mr. Barrett would appoint a small working group in consultation with Mr. Wisner (CIA) and Mr. Berding (ECA).

With regard to item III, Mr. Wisner made a brief report on the following subjects:

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It was the consensus that indigenous theatrical troupes are an effective propaganda medium if organized under the right auspices. It was agreed that projects of this type should be developed by the agency responsible for covert activities.

Mr. Barrett reported briefly on his visit to Germany.

The Executive Secretary distributed a report received by Mr. Berding on the propaganda organization of the Communist Party in Italy.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8, 1951.

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